# Flowering Kadambamu

..from Sringaara Naishadham, Srinatha, 15CE.

At the whisper that one seeketh his favor,

In dense bloom, this King of the people.

Like the beflowering Kadamba Tree,

At the hint of spawned drafts of the rain laden Monsoon cloud.

తే. అర్థి యనుపేరు చెవి సోఁకి నంతమాత్ర

జాదుకోఁ బులకించె నజ్జనవిభుండు,

ప్రావృషేణ్య పయోధర ప్రభవ మైన

గాలి ననిచిన నీపవృక్షంబు వోలె.

## Context of Munificence

For what reason, I know not, this theme of “granting favors (what-is-asked) when asked” is considered an essential element of valor in Indian literature.

To the extent that the practice has its own words for the “giver” and the “asker”.

The first word of this poem starts with “arthi”, the asker. I’ve struggled to find a translation that conveys its full weight and significance.

It is this sentiment that is in the first two lines, a too familiar sentiment in Indian literature of this period, and even now to an extent.

## The Kadamaba tree

Now references to the Kadamaba tree.

The Kadamba tree is sacred in Hinduism and is associated with **Lord Krishna**. In the **Bhagavata Purana**, Krishna is often depicted playing his flute under the shade of a Kadamba tree, making it a symbol of divine love and joy.

The Kadamba tree frequently appears in classical Indian poetry, symbolizing the **arrival of the monsoon**. The tree blooms during this season, so it represents renewal, life, and the romance often associated with the rainy season in Indian literature.

This season is called in Sanskrit “Varsha (rain) Rutuvu (season)”, better translated as “Season of Rain”.

The **Kadamba tree** is known as the **Burflower Tree** in English. Its scientific name is **Neolamarckia cadamba**, and it belongs to the Rubiaceae family. The tree is famous for its large, spherical, fragrant flowers that resemble yellow or orange puffballs, which give it the name "burflower."

In addition to its cultural significance in India, the Kadamba tree is admired for its beauty and is often planted for ornamental purposes.

Notable members of the **Rubiaceae** family include Coffee plants, Gardenia plants, and Quinine plants.

## Meanings

అర్థి: One that is asking for help

యనుపేరు: Such a mention

చెవి: Ear

సోఁకి: Touch

నంతమాత్ర: In that instant

జాదుకోఁ : densely

బులకించె: delighted

నజ్జనవిభుండు: ఆ + జన + విభుండు: The loved of the people

ప్రావృషము: వర్ష ఋతువు: Rainy season

**ప్రావృషేణ్య**: Possessive, Rainy season’s

**పయోధర**: One laden with water, the cloud

ప్రభవ మైన: From there born, spawned

గాలి: Wind, drafts of wind

ననిచిన: A variation of ననలెత్తు: To germinate, beflower

నీపవృక్షంబు: A tree called Nauclea cadamba, కడిమిచెట్టు, మొగులు కడిమి, కదంబవృక్షము

వోలె: like so

## My favorite words

ప్రావృషము: వర్ష ఋతువు: Rainy season

**ప్రావృషేణ్య**: Possessive, Rainy season’s

**పయోధర**: In this peom this word refers to a **cloud laden with water**. However, it also carries additional meanings, such as a **coconut** and a **woman’s breast**, all of which share a common derivation. The term comes from the idea of **"one that carries liquid"**, linking these meanings through the concept of being full or heavy with fluid.